



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 November 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The *Washington Times* reports that officials from Fort Huachuca, Arizona, the nation's largest intelligence training center, changed security measures last May, after sources warned that possibly 60 Afghan and Iraqi terrorists were to be smuggled into the U.S. through underground tunnels with high powered weapons to attack the post. (See item [21](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that firefighters in major cities are being trained to take on a new role as lookouts for terrorism. The Homeland Security Department is testing a program with the New York City fire department to share intelligence information so firefighters are better prepared when they respond to emergency calls. Homeland Security also trains the New York City fire service in how to identify material or behavior that may indicate terrorist activities. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Oil falls on OPEC supply expectations.** Oil futures fell Monday on a widening belief that Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministers will agree to raise crude production during a meeting next week. At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices retreated further from their recent highs now that Thanksgiving travel demand has faded. The average national price of a gallon of gas slipped 0.1 cent overnight to \$3.085 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service, and is off 2.7 cents in less than two weeks. Analysts

say gas prices are likely to hold steady or even fall unless oil prices rise to \$100 a barrel or higher. But crude's ascendancy has been stymied in recent weeks in part by conflicting signals from OPEC officials about the cartel's willingness to add supplies to the global oil market. Over the weekend, one of the perceived obstacles to increased OPEC supplies appeared to have been removed when the Iranian oil minister said his country is willing to lift production if needed. Light, sweet crude for January delivery fell \$1.45 to \$96.73 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/26/AR2007112600139.html>

2. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Louisiana gas well capped; I-10 stretch reopened.** In the closing hours of the Thanksgiving Day weekend, state police on Sunday reopened a stretch of Interstate 10 between Lafayette and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that has been closed since November 15 because of a natural gas well blowout. After receiving word that the well, located near a stretch of the elevated highway that passes through bayous, had been brought under control, troopers and highway workers removed cones and barricades and allowed traffic to move through on both directions at 7 p.m. The 55-mile corridor is part of a major route between Houston and New Orleans. The blowout happened November 15, when workers were drilling for a new well, and the pressure blew the line, which later erupted into flames.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/5328213.html>

3. *November 23, Triangle Business Journal* – (North Carolina) **Drought could force shutdown of nuclear, coal plants.** If the ongoing drought stretches into next summer, worsening water shortages could cause nuclear power plants such as Shearon Harris to go off-line. North Carolina's electric utilities, among the largest water customers in the state, are dusting off contingency plans to manage their power plants if lake levels continue to drop due to the ongoing drought -- plans that could lead to higher costs for consumers. Both Progress Energy and Duke Energy say that if they do not have enough water to run their coal and nuclear plants, they will either shift generation to natural gas fired gas plants or buy power on the open market -- costs that would be passed on to the utilities' customers.

Source: <http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2007/11/26/story5.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 26, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Stadium safety at issue in rail crash.** Freight traffic resumed yesterday, a day after the derailment of a dozen CSX cars in downtown Baltimore, and MARC trains were expected to run on schedule today as nearly 30,000 rail commuters return to work. Federal rail authorities are investigating the accident, in which 12 train cars tumbled off the tracks near M&T Bank. Three of the cars were carrying hazardous materials, but no leaks or injuries were reported. A final report could take several months. The Federal Railroad Administration had three inspectors at the accident site Saturday, as cleanup efforts were under way. Its investigation could take months, said the agency's spokesman. Some advocates have

been lobbying for more restrictions on the transport of hazardous chemicals downtown. Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md derail26nov26,0,239181.story?coll=bal_tab03_layout

5. *November 24, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Researchers to study if foam plant chemical sickens residents.** Researchers will finally reach Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, early next month to study whether a chemical used in foam-making plants is making neighbors sick. The chemical, toluene diisocyanate or TDI, is used to make foam for furniture cushioning. It sometimes causes asthma and other health problems in workers. Hundreds of pounds of TDI a year are also released into the open air. State and federal health agencies want to learn whether people who live near the plants can be affected. Researchers from the North Carolina Division of Public Health and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are doing the study. They have visited neighborhoods near foam plants in Catawba, Randolph and Guilford counties. Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20071124/APN/711240671>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 24, Associated Press* – (New York) **NRC tells Indian Point nuclear plant to fix pumps.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) believes that Indian Point does not need 14 months to fix a chronic sump pump problem that could prove critical in a nuclear reactor emergency. The reactor's operators failed to make "a convincing case" to delay completion of the work on the Indian Point 3 reactor until a refueling shutdown in the spring of 2009. That is according to a November 20th letter from the NRC reported in the *Journal News*. The letter says the project was supposed to be finished by December 31. Operators expect to complete similar pump work at Indian Point 2 during that reactor's refueling outage in the spring. A spokesman for Entergy Nuclear Northeast, which owns and operates Indian Point, says the company would complete the work as quickly as possible. The sump pumps would collect water in the event of a major pipe break. Source: <http://www.wcax.com/global/story.asp?s=7403607>
7. *November 23, Baltimore Business Journal* – (Maryland, New York) **Constellation still considering N.Y. for site of new nuclear plant.** The location of a new nuclear reactor is still being debated by Constellation Energy Group and its European energy partner, despite the Baltimore utility's filing with the state's Public Service Commission on November 15 to build such a plant in Maryland. UniStar Nuclear Energy, an Annapolis-based joint venture between Constellation and the EDF Group of France, is considering building a new nuclear reactor at the Calvert Cliffs plant in Lusby, where Constellation already operates two existing reactors. However, the group also has filed similar applications with New York regulators to locate a new reactor at Constellation's Nine Mile Point facility near Lake Ontario. The group will file a federal application for the consideration of a new reactor with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in January. The federal review of the project could take up to three years. But company officials said a final decision on the site depends largely on the state approvals, which may not be made

until December 2008.

Source:

http://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2007/11/26/story8.html?ana=from_rss

8. *November 22, Wiscasset Newspaper* – (Maine) **Hunter shooting at Maine Yankee worries resident.** A shooting incident near the Maine Yankee site in Wiscasset is being investigated by the Maine Warden Service, according to a spokesman for the service. Maine Yankee was the state's only nuclear power plant until it closed in 1997 and was dismantled. Much of the 800 acres where the plant was located has been sold, but there is still nuclear waste stored in cement casks on the site. The incident occurred October 30, when a hunter standing on the Ferry Road fired off two shots at four deer standing in a field, about a quarter of a mile from where the nuclear waste is stored. The waste will be stored at the site indefinitely until the federal government fulfills its obligation to provide storage elsewhere. When Maine Yankee officials learned of the incident, they reported it to the Maine Warden Service, the Maine Department of Safety, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to a Maine Yankee spokesman. A local resident who witnessed the incident is concerned about the security of the nuclear waste storage site. The resident said, "I expected guards would come running out of the gatehouse when the shots were fired, but no guards appeared." He continued, "What surprised me most was there were no guards in the gatehouse. I was told the area is being observed by cameras. Cameras will not stop a terrorist. The unmanned gatehouse is of great concern for me, living near the site." It is Maine Yankee's responsibility to store the spent nuclear fuel at the site according to Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations. The security includes around-the-clock armed officers and "a well rehearsed response plan that involves local, state and federal resources." A successful emergency planning exercise was conducted in September of 2006 that included over 50 federal, state, and local officials. Among the agencies were the Maine Army National Guard, the Maine State Police, the FBI, the Coast Guard, the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Lincoln County Emergency Management, the Wiscasset Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. The Department of Homeland Security also sent representatives to monitor the exercise. Maine Yankee's emergency planning procedures were also reviewed October 30 at the Maine Emergency Management office in Augusta.

Source: http://wiscassetnewspaper.maine.com/2007-11-22/hunter_shooting.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *November 26, PR Newswire* – (National) **Northrop Grumman team wins \$160 million U.S. Air Force contract.** Northrop Grumman Corporation has been awarded a \$160 million U.S. Air Force contract for the Global Positioning System (GPS) Next Generation Control Segment (OCX) System design and risk reduction. The OCX modernization effort will provide mission enterprise control support for the nation's existing GPS Block II and future Block III satellites. The GPS ground control segment includes satellite command and control, mission planning, constellation management, monitoring stations and ground antennas. Under the 18-month cost plus award fee

contract, Northrop Grumman's Team OCX will provide architecture design; communications and network engineering; information assurance and security; modeling and simulation; network management; software development; support, maintenance and implementation; systems engineering and integration; and test and evaluation.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071126/lam044.html?.v=101>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *November 26, Herald Times Reporter News* – (National) **Phone scam strikes again across area.** Dispatchers in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, estimated they had received at least 100 calls Saturday from concerned citizens who had answered automated telephone calls from organizations identified as Bank of America and Bank First National. The automated message tells people their bank card has been canceled due to suspicious activity and asks them to call an 800 number, said a dispatcher. The automated calls also were received at Crime Stoppers, the Manitowoc Police Department and the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department. The dispatcher said the banks are "trying to get to the bottom of it," working to find the root of the scam and resolve the issue.

Source:

<http://www.htrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071126/MAN0101/711260407/1358/MANnews>

11. *November 26, Florida Sentinel* – (National) **Holiday forecast: More e-scams.** Just in time for "Cyber Monday" and the online holiday shopping rush: A new round of bogus e-mail, identity-theft experts say. Online shopping has grown at a double-digit pace in recent years. More than 70 million are expected to surf the Web this year for gifts. "We do see e-mail and phone scams picking up during the holiday season," said the executive director of the Identity Theft Resource Center. From fake e-greeting cards and charity pleas to foreign lottery scams, the pace of illicit "phishing" e-mail rises by more than 33 percent during the holiday season, according to Symantec, maker of Norton computer security software. Banks and e-commerce companies have guaranteed they will never use unsolicited e-mail to ask customers for personal data or to notify them about an account problem. Many companies post alerts on their Web sites about the bogus e-mail or run commercials warning people about the threat of identity theft.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-scams_biz_26nov26,0,6576688.story

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

12. *November 26, El Paso Times* – (Texas) **Airport loses power during busiest day.** A power outage at El Paso International Airport caused flight delays, long lines at security and a darkened terminal for thousands of passengers on Sunday, the busiest travel day of the year. The airport's tower and runway lights continued to operate without

interruption through a back-up power system, but commercial power was severely reduced during the three and a half hour loss of electricity, officials said. Some computers for airline carriers were affected by the outage and many passengers were forced out onto the tarmac to enter or leave their flights. Despite the loss of electricity, the airport did not have any cancellations and experienced just a handful of delays, said the director of aviation at El Paso International Airport. He added that the cause of Sunday's power outage at the airport had not been determined by the afternoon but the winter storm was probably a factor. A loss of electricity at the airport also occurred for a few minutes on Saturday, he said.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_7557853

13. *November 25, Star-Telegram* – (National) **Regional airlines lower bar for pilots.**

Regional carriers, which operate flights for major airlines like American, Delta and United, have been slashing their minimum hiring requirements in recent years as they grapple with a growing shortage of pilots. The carriers have reduced required flight hours for job applicants by as much as two-thirds, and in a few cases have hired pilots with the minimum experience required by the Federal Aviation Administration for a pilot's license. Airline executives say recruiting less experienced pilots is necessary because the pool of applicants is shrinking while demand for pilots grows. However, pilot union officials, while not citing specific incidents, say they are worried that the trend could make the skies less safe. The issue has emerged as regional carriers account for an increasing portion of the country's airline traffic. Half the flights nationwide are operated by regional airlines, said the president of the Regional Airline Association.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/322928.html>

14. *November 25, Aero-News Network* – (California) **Man arrested for threatening to kill UA pilot.** An apparently inebriated passenger was restrained on a United Airlines flight and later arrested after threatening to kill the aircraft's pilot on November 21. The intoxicated man was charged in federal court with assaulting a passenger and threatening to injure the pilot on board a San Francisco-bound flight after he allegedly stood up in his seat and blurted out, "I'm going to kill the pilot," according to court records. He was restrained by four or five passengers, an assistant U.S. attorney wrote in court papers. A flight purser gave the passengers duct tape and handcuffs while restraining the passenger, according to reports.

Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=b21a4a51-b640-4574-bff4-c77da851ae76>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *November 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Possible E. coli contamination prompts recall of 96,000 pounds of beef.** American Foods Group voluntarily recalled nearly 96,000 pounds of ground beef products after two people were sickened, possibly by the E. coli bacteria, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said Saturday. The products were produced on October 10 and were distributed to retailers and distributors in Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Virginia. Some of the recommended use-by dates have already expired. A complete list of recalled products is available on the USDA's website: www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_054_2007_Release/index.asp
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,312767,00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

16. *November 26, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Panel questions failure to study tainted water.** A House committee is demanding to know why federal regulators failed to assess potential public health damage from extremely high levels of a toxic industrial solvent found in Southern California drinking water before the mid-1980s. Trichloroethylene, widely used in the defense industry, was discovered in aquifers under the San Gabriel and San Fernando valleys, which supplied drinking water to nearly 2 million residents. Across the nation, the chemical is one of the most widespread water contaminants. A letter sent today to the chief of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry by the House Energy and Commerce Committee said the agency failed to conduct the recommended health evaluations in communities across the nation, an apparent lapse that went unnoticed for more than a decade. It is suspected that residents of dozens of Southern California communities from Burbank to West Covina were exposed for an unknown number of years to levels of TCE hundreds or even thousands of times above the current federal drinking-water standard of 5 parts per billion
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-tce26nov26,1,6914919.story>
17. *November 26, WNEM 5 Saginaw* – (Michigan) **Saginaw River contamination worst ever.** An U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scientist said toxic dioxin found in the Saginaw River could be the most concentrated ever discovered in the nation's rivers and lakes. He said no other recorded finding comes close to the 1.6 million parts of dioxin per trillion reported last week. In response, Michigan Department of Community Health officials have issued a fish consumption advisory for the Tittabawassee River, the Saginaw River and a portion of Saginaw Bay. Some dioxins have been linked to cancer and other health problems.
Source: <http://www.wnem.com/news/14689449/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *November 25, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA review recommends warnings on**

kids' flu drugs. After a review of the flu drugs Tamiflu and Relenza that began in 2005 after 25 Tamiflu users died, a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel has recommended that the drugs carry a warning label on their packaging. An FDA safety review released Friday says the drugs may have dangerous neurological side effects. According to the *Associated Press*, there have been no child deaths linked to Relenza, but regulators say some children taking the drug have shown similar neurological symptoms. Data from the review will be considered by a special panel of outside experts that will meet on Tuesday to mull the agency's proposed label changes. The FDA is not required to follow the advice of its advisory panels, but usually does. While Roche, the manufacturer of Tamiflu, maintains that there is "no hard evidence" linking the drug to neurological damage, it says it is nonetheless open to considering a warning label.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/25/AR2007112500679_3.html

19. *November 24, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Police warn of threat from stolen insulin.** Indiana State Police were searching Friday for a truckload of stolen insulin that could be worth more than \$1 million, according to troopers. The insulin was aboard refrigerated trailers, which were stolen from a Plainfield trucking company between 11:45 p.m. Wednesday and 10:45 a.m. Thursday. If the insulin is not kept properly refrigerated, the substance can be harmful to anyone's health if injected into the body, authorities said.
Source: <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071124/LOCAL/711240476/-1/LOCAL17>
20. *November 24, 1010 WINS* – (New York) **Patient list, hotline calls in LI syringe scare still growing.** The New York Health Department recently told more than 600 of Doctor Harvey Finkelstein's patients that the anesthesiologist sometimes reused a given syringe on the same patient, possibly contaminating vials of medicine later used for other patients. They say he infected at least one patient with hepatitis C. The agency now says it has now gotten a more complete list of his patients, and the probe will grow to thousands of patients. More than 1,100 people have called a state hot line worried that the doctor might have put them at risk for hepatitis or HIV.
Source: <http://www.1010wins.com/pages/1246151.php>

Government Facilities Sector

21. *November 25, Washington Times* – (Arizona) **U.S. intel center wary of terrorist attack.** Fort Huachuca, Arizona, the nation's largest intelligence training center, changed security measures in May after being warned that Islamist terrorists, with the aid of Mexican drug cartels, were planning an attack on the facility. Fort officials changed security measures after sources warned that possibly 60 Afghan and Iraqi terrorists were to be smuggled into the U.S. through underground tunnels with high powered weapons to attack the post, according to multiple confidential law enforcement documents obtained by the *Washington Times*. "A portion of the operatives were in the

United States, with the remainder not yet in the United States,” according to one of the documents, an FBI advisory that was disbursed to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the CIA, Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Justice, among other law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. According to the FBI advisory, each Middle Easterner paid Mexican drug lords \$20,000 “or the equivalent in weapons” for the cartel’s assistance in smuggling them and their weapons through tunnels along the border into the U.S. The weapons would be sent through tunnels that supposedly ended in Arizona and New Mexico, but the Islamist terrorists would be smuggled through Laredo, Texas, and join the weapons later. A number of the Afghans and Iraqis already are in a safe house in Texas, the FBI advisory said. The connections between criminal enterprises, such as powerful drug cartels, and terrorist organizations have become a serious concern for intelligence agencies monitoring the U.S.-Mexico border.

Source:

<http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071125/NATION/71125002/1002>

22. *November 24, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Summit terror threat advisory issued.**

Federal authorities have advised local law enforcement agencies to be alert to possible terrorism threats because of the Middle East peace conference next week in Annapolis, Maryland, Homeland Security and FBI officials said Friday. Although intelligence reports indicate no credible threats by domestic extremist groups to the conference or Islamic or Jewish sites in the Annapolis area, “nonetheless, the Department of Homeland Security does not discount the threat of the lone wolf terrorist, including individuals radicalized by homegrown extremist groups or Internet content,” said a bulletin issued by the agency and the FBI. The threat assessment bulletin highlights about a dozen groups, including the radical Islamic fundamentalist organization Hamas, and Hezbollah, the Lebanese umbrella organization of radical Islamic Shiite groups that is a bitter foe of Israel. Annapolis police have reported no unusual activity.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iVz-2qUNWkjVIKwculch2g0ddo6gD8T3L6700>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

23. *November 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Firefighters help in war on terror.**

Firefighters in major cities are being trained to take on a new role as lookouts for terrorism, raising concerns of eroding their standing as American icons and infringing on people’s privacy. Unlike police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel do not need warrants to access hundreds of thousands of homes and buildings each year, putting them in a position to spot behavior that could indicate terrorist activity or planning. But there are fears that they could lose the faith of a skeptical public by becoming the eyes of the government, looking for suspicious items such as building blueprints or bomb-making manuals or materials. The Homeland Security Department is testing a program with the New York City fire department to share intelligence information so firefighters are better prepared when they respond to emergency calls. Homeland Security also trains the New York City fire service in how to identify

material or behavior that may indicate terrorist activities. If it is successful, the government intends to expand the program to other major metropolitan areas. As part of the program, which started last December, Homeland Security gave secret clearances to nine New York fire chiefs, according to reports obtained by the *Associated Press*. “They’re really doing technical inspections, and if perchance they find something like, you know, a bunch of RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) rounds in somebody’s basement, I think it’s a no-brainer,” said a senior official in Homeland Security’s intelligence division. “The police ought to know about that; the fire service ought to know about that; and potentially maybe somebody in the intelligence community should know about that.” The trial program with Homeland Security opens a clear information-sharing channel — which did not exist before — between the fire service and Homeland Security’s intelligence division.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071125/ap_on_re_us/firefighters_terrorism;_ylt=AlwYehF9aZuG57rqc7KpOvNG2ocA

24. *November 24, thedenverchannel.com* – (Colorado) **Telemedicine brings stroke specialists to rural Colorado.** Stroke specialists are using a Web camera so they can virtually be at a rural hospital within minutes. “It’s actually a two-way audio and video connection between us the specialist to remote facilities,” explained a doctor from the program. Through the new emergency telemedicine program called CO-DOC or Colorado Digital Online Consultant, hospitals across Colorado can have access to a stroke specialist any time. “We can immediately start evaluation and diagnoses of stroke, looking at cat scans, getting history,” he said. Right now Colorado Neurological Institute and Swedish Medical Center are working with nine rural hospitals on telemedicine. The CO-DOC program is funded by grants including money from Colorado’s tobacco taxes.
- Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Telemedicine-Brings-Stroke-Specialists-to-Rural-Colorado/1\\$6592](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Telemedicine-Brings-Stroke-Specialists-to-Rural-Colorado/1$6592)
25. *November 24, Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Grant to help Pennsylvania hospitals prepare for emergencies.** Hospitals in seven Pennsylvania counties will use a \$2.5 million federal grant to eliminate gaps in the region’s ability to handle emergencies such as a flu pandemic. Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center will lead the effort, which will involve hospitals in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, York, Franklin, Adams and Lancaster counties. The organizations will work together to address issues such as dealing with a surge of people who need hospitalization, recruiting volunteer health professionals to help deal with an emergency and developing a way for the organizations to communicate. In a news release, the chairman of emergency medicine at Hershey Medical Center said health care providers tend to compete rather than collaborate. But the local organizations have a history of cooperation. The planning effort will include drills to identify gaps in preparedness. It is expected to take a year and produce a model for other communities. The collaboration, called the Health Care Facilities Partnership of South Central Pennsylvania, is among 10 organizations nationwide that received such grants, according to the news release.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Emergency-Department/Grant-to->

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

26. *November 25, Computerworld* – (National) **New QuickTime bug opens XP, Vista to attack.** Security researchers warn that attack code targeting an unpatched bug in Apple Inc.'s QuickTime has gone public, and added that in-the-wild attacks against systems running Windows XP and Vista are probably not far behind. There was no word as of Sunday whether the Mac OS X versions of the media player are also vulnerable. The critical bug in QuickTime 7.2 and 7.3 (and perhaps earlier editions as well) is in the player's handling of the Real Time Streaming Protocol, an audio/video streaming standard. According to alerts posted by Symantec Corp. and the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), attackers can exploit the flaw by duping users into visiting malicious or compromised Web sites hosting specially-crafted streaming content, or by convincing them to open a rigged QTL file attached to an e-mail message. Symantec credited a Polish researcher with first reporting the zero-day vulnerability on the milw0rm.com Web site Friday. By Saturday, he and another unnamed researcher had followed up with separate proof-of-concept examples that executed on Windows XP SP2 and Windows Vista machines running QuickTime 7.2 or 7.3. A successful exploit would let the attacker install additional malware -- spyware or a spambot, say -- or cull the system for information like passwords. An attack that failed would likely only crash QuickTime. A gaffe by Apple's developers, however, makes an attack easier on Vista, said one of the researchers, who claimed that the QuickTimePlayer binary does not have Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR) enabled. ASLR is a Vista security feature that randomly assigns data and application components, such as .exe and .dll files, to memory to make it tougher for attackers to determine the location of critical functions or vulnerable code. A Symantec analyst noted: "This makes reliable exploitation of the vulnerability a lot easier."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9048678&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

27. *November 23, Computerworld* – (National) **Once-fixed bug pops up again in Leopard's Mail.** Apple Inc. reintroduced a critical vulnerability in Leopard, the newest version of Mac OS X, that it had patched more than 20 months ago in Tiger, security experts said last week. Attackers can use the new-old vulnerability to hide malicious code in seemingly harmless file attachments and get Apple Mail to run the malware without warning the user, as it is designed to do, said Symantec in a warning to customers of its DeepSight threat management service. The Heise Security Web site first noted the returned flaw and said attackers could disguise their code as a benign file -- a JPG image file, for example -- then exploit the file's "resource fork" to launch Terminal, the Mac OS X command line interface, which in turn would run a camouflaged code. The site even produced a harmless proof-of-concept e-mail attachment that demonstrated an exploit of the bug. "The bug causing this has to do with the way Leopard manages [download] quarantines," Intego said in an alert. "The first time a user

opens an attachment, Mail opens the file directly without passing through the quarantine system.” Until Apple fixes Leopard, Symantec told users to use caution when handling e-mail attachments received in Mail.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9048638&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

28. *November 24, Reuters* – (International) **EU agrees to public funding for satellite project.** European Union nations clinched a deal late on Friday to fund an ambitious satellite navigation project to rival the U.S. Global Positioning System using unspent cash from the EU budget, a presidency spokesman said. The Portuguese spokesman said budget ministers agreed to finance a 2.4 billion euro (\$3.55 billion) shortfall in start-up costs of the Galileo system by redeploying unspent money for farm subsidies and competitiveness projects. The EU executive warned it would have to drop the prestigious industrial project if there was no agreement among member states on public funding by the end of this year. Supporters say it is a vital technological platform for Europe, but critics say it could be a costly white elephant because the U.S. system already has a dominant market position and Russia and China are working on their own systems.

Source: http://www.news.com/EU-agrees-to-public-funding-for-satellite-project/2100-1032_3-6219990.html?tag=nefd.top

29. *November 24, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Katrina decision could cost industry millions.** The mobile-phone and tower sectors could take a significant financial hit as a result of a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate requiring backup power sources at key facilities. The FCC rule, which industry sources claim could cost wireless carriers hundreds of millions of dollars to implement, flows from recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks. The FCC softened the blow to industry somewhat by giving carriers six months to conduct inventories to determine which assets comply with the new guidelines and which either do not comply with the backup power rule or are precluded because of safety reasons and conflicts with federal, state or tribal laws. Carriers with wireless facilities covered by the new rule, but not in compliance, must rectify the situation, or file an action plan within 12 months on how they intend to meet new federal requirements. The FCC said it does not regard the reporting requirements as overly burdensome, but the cellular and tower industries call them brutal. It is even

questionable whether compliance is reasonably achievable under terms laid out by the FCC, given physical and practical limitations related to the amount of space at sites and the need to modify structures with cell transmitters. The wireless industry argues roofs of some structures are not tall enough to accommodate requirements of the backup power rule and floors may be unable to support added weight of new generators. Moreover, the introduction of hazardous materials (gas, diesel, propane, batteries) associated with backup power sources could be prohibited in some leases involving cell sites on private and public property.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071124/SUB/71124015/1005>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *November 24, Kansas City Star* – (Kansas) **Ammonia leak forces employee evacuation.** An ammonia leak forced the evacuation of 50 employees from the Kansas City Steak Company on Friday evening. Investigators said probable cause of the leak was an equipment malfunction. A company engineer estimated that about 100 pounds of ammonia had been released. Hazmat teams shut down pumps and ventilated the building. Two employees were taken to area hospitals for evaluation.

Source: http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/375078.html

31. *November 24, Post Star* – (New York) **Officials: Fuel leak was attempted arson.** What was initially reported Friday as a fuel leak at a Queensbury construction company was actually an arson attempt, authorities said Saturday. New York State Police believe someone deliberately opened a tank containing diesel fuel at Edward and Thomas O'Connor Inc. construction sometime late Thanksgiving night. The suspect or suspects unsuccessfully tried to ignite the fuel, apparently not realizing that diesel fuel does not burn as easily as other types of liquid fuel, officials said. About 820 gallons drained from a 2,000-gallon tank into nearby Halfway Creek, a protected trout stream. The state Department of Environmental Conservation supervised a cleanup, and it was unclear what environmental problems might result from the spill.

Source:

<http://www.poststar.com/articles/2007/11/24/news/latest/doc4748a0aa49947853917035.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

32. *November 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Climbing popularity a curse for U.S. parks.** Evidence of rock climbing's excesses are visible everywhere around the base of a popular summer ascent in Yosemite National Park. Dead pines lie decomposing on the eroded rock, their roots exposed by thousands of boot soles. The approach is marred by 40 separate trails braiding around the granite face. In September, volunteers packed out 900 pounds of abandoned rope, snack wrappers and toilet paper strewn around some of

Yosemite National Park's most cherished crags. As neophyte rock-jocks head to national parks to test their skills in the great outdoors, some are unwittingly breaking the wilderness ethic governing the sport. Others are violating federal wilderness regulations by drilling into the bare rock face with power tools. In Southern California's Joshua Tree National Park, boulders are riddled with holes and stakes marking climbing routes. Rangers say the problem is twofold: it alters the landscape for non-climbers visiting the park and accelerates erosion of the rock formations. At Arches National Park in Utah, officials feared climbers would damage delicate sandstone formations, so last year they banned slacklining. They also banned climbing on any arch named on a topographical map of the park. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, near Las Vegas, is taking a different tack. Land managers are considering placing a 10-year cap on the number of bolts and anchors climbers can wedge into the sandstone, hoping to encourage climbers to use natural protection instead of drilling more gear into the wall. Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695230735,00.html>

33. *November 24, Visalia Times-Delta* – (National) **Vandals mar the beauty of national parks.** Thousands each year come to national parks and forests to scratch up, to burn down and to spray paint over some of nature's most precious features. In 2006, vandals struck 3,064 times in national parks, causing more than \$1.1 million in damage, according to the National Park Service and the United States Park Police. "We've had people set fire to our toilets in our campgrounds, mirrors broken, sinks taken off the wall, fires set on bridges and caves all but destroyed," a spokeswoman for Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks said. The park ranger and spokesman for Yosemite National Park, said vandals scratch out letters and carve names in signs and damage pictures in exhibits. Both spokespeople agree graffiti is the most prevalent form of vandalism. Cleaning up the damage from vandalism is often time-consuming and labor intensive. Scrubbing off graffiti requires special chemicals or paint, and abused trail signs must be newly fabricated and replaced. While most vandalism occurs in the busier areas, not all damage is easy to access or repair. Yosemite's spokesman said a ranger once spent three days hiking through the backcountry of the park getting rid of fire rings, which are rings of rock constructed by people who built illegal fires inside. Not only do the fire rings cause a threat for larger fires, but people eating around the fires leave food residue that might attract animals and damage the wilderness.

Source:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071124/NEWS/711240326>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

34. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Connecticut going high-tech with dam safety.** Connecticut is the first state in the country to use DamWatch, a system invented by USEngineering Solutions Corp., to monitor the DEP-owned dams. The system is expected to be fully operation by early 2008. The DamWatch computer software program essentially monitors the dams and alerts state officials, using real-time data, by e-mail, cell phones, fax machines and pagers about the changing weather and

rising water levels. That information can be checked against existing data about problem dams, flood zones and watershed areas. The technology was recently demonstrated at the National Association of State Dam Safety Officials meeting in Texas. The president of USEngineering Solutions Corp. plans to meet with a Homeland Security official next week to discuss the system and how it can help save lives nationwide.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/connecticut/ny-bc-ct--damsafety1126nov26,0,1996241.story>

35. *November 26, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (California; Nevada) **Martis Creek Dam needs repair, study finds.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is calling for immediate action to prevent the failure of Martis Creek Dam in California, which it considers one of the six most at risk in its entire 610-dam inventory. In a conference call with reporters last week, a peer group of dam experts, hydrologists and engineers said they completely agree with the Corps findings. Martis Creek Dam provides 30 percent of flood storage capacity for the Truckee River and ultimately Reno, Nevada. Officials said failure of the dam might be catastrophic for downstream communities. According to the Corps, the dam has developed worrisome seepage problems since it was built in 1972. That led to an internal investigation by the Corps that concluded that the dam is unsafe. The site for the dam was identified in the 1960s, but experts are now saying that was a mistake. The problem is the materials used in the dam's construction: coarse glacial deposits of sand, gravel and boulders that are allowing water to seep under the dam. According to the Corps' Dam Safety Assurance Program, if the seepage increases to the point that it exceeds the dam's out-flow, it could fail from the bottom up. Another concern is that fault lines run under the dam, but it is unclear if these are active. The dam's ranking comes not only from the probability of failure, but also the consequences downstream, such as the flooding of the Truckee River Canyon and a large part of Reno.

Source:

<http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071126/TT/711260348/1047/NEWS>

36. *November 26, TWEAN 8 Austin* – (Texas) **Opening the floodgates: The trouble with Texas dams.** Today there are 7,644 known dams in Texas, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The Lower Colorado River Authority maintains and operates eight dams, and inspects them on a yearly basis, according to their spokesperson. The federally funded U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains 28 of Texas' largest dams. According to a Parks Ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers, they use technology to keep track of their dams. The bulk of Texas dams, more than 7,500, are under the watch of the TCEQ. However, it is unlikely TCEQ knows how most of their dams are doing because they are rarely inspected. "We try to look at each dam once every five years," the Dam Safety Program coordinator said. Their efforts fall short. Using the Texas Inventory of Dams Database, it was discovered that 1,826 dams have not been inspected in five years, 1,510 have not been inspected in 10 years and 1,030 dams have not been inspected in the last 20 years. TCEQ's data shows 4,626 dams under TCEQ's watch have never been inspected.

Source: http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=195786

37. *November 24, Union-Tribune* – (California) **Repairs will upgrade dam.** The city of

Carlsbad, California, is repairing the 65-year-old dam at Lake Calavera to prevent a repeat of the near catastrophe that struck in 2005 when the reservoir overflowed and sent a torrent of water down its spillway. The reservoir originally served as a water supply, but since the mid-1950s it has been used for flood control. That purpose has been undermined since the mid-1990s, when the three valves on the dam's intake tower became stuck in the shut position. The city opened the top valve to permit water to flow passively out of the reservoir when the water reaches that level, but it has no ability to release water from the dam before a major storm. The dam has failed inspections by the state Division of Safety of Dams, which requires that reservoirs be able to release half their water within seven days as a safety precaution. The city awarded a \$4.1 million contract in March to Vadnais Corp. to repair the earthen dam. Repair work began in September and is expected to be finished by summer.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20071124-9999-1mi24dam.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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